AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a water-developable photopolymer plate for letterpress printing, wherein the plate comprises a photopolymer as a raw material, comprising an exposure step, a development step and a post-exposure step, wherein the method further comprises a contact step during or after the exposure step and an irradiation step with actinic light during or after said contact step, wherein said contact step brings the photopolymer plate into contact with a liquid comprising a silicone compound modified with one or more reactive functional groups selected from a hydroxy group, a carbinol group, an epoxy group, a (meth)acrylate group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylate group, an amino group, an aromatic hydrocarbon group inclusive of a phenyl group, a hydrocarbon group substituted with an aromatic hydrocarbon inclusive of a methylstyryl group, an aromatic hydrocarbon group substituted with a hydroxy group inclusive of a hydroxyphenyl group, an alkoxyl group, a (poly)ether group and a urethane group and/or a fluorine compound modified with one or more reactive functional groups, wherein said fluorine compound is a compound in which the hydrogen atoms of a hydrocarbon compound are partially or completely substituted with fluorine atoms.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the photopolymer comprises:

a binder polymer comprising a mixture of a polar group-containing polymer and a hydrophobic polymer;

an ethylenically unsaturated compound; and

a photopolymerization initiator.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the liquid comprises a silicone compound modified with one or more a hydroxy group, a carbinol group, an epoxy group, a (meth)acrylate group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylate group, an amino group, an aromatic hydrocarbon group inclusive of a phenyl group, a hydrocarbon group substituted with an aromatic hydrocarbon inclusive of a methylstyryl group, an aromatic hydrocarbon group substituted with a hydroxy group inclusive of a hydroxyphenyl group, an alkoxyl group, a (poly)ether group and a urethane group.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein an irradiation with actinic light is carried out after the photopolymer plate is brought into contact with the liquid comprising the silicone compound and/or the fluorine compound.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the photopolymer plate is brought into contact with the liquid comprising the silicone compound and/or the fluorine compound after the development step and immediately before the post-exposure step.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein development is carried out by using a developer comprising the silicone compound and/or the fluorine compound.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the liquid comprises the fluorine compound.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the post-exposure step is carried out while the photopolymer plate is being brought into contact with the liquid comprising the silicone compound and/or the fluorine compound.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid comprising the silicone compound and/or the fluorine compound is a developer.

10. (Withdrawn) A developer, comprising a silicone compound modified by one or more reactive functional groups and/or a fluorine compound modified with one or more reactive functional groups selected from a hydroxy group, a carbinol group, an epoxy group, a (meth)acrylate group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylate group, an amino group, an aromatic hydrocarbon group inclusive of a phenyl group, a hydrocarbon group substituted with an aromatic hydrocarbon inclusive of a methylstyryl group, an aromatic hydrocarbon group substituted with a hydroxy group inclusive of a hydroxyphenyl group, an alkoxyl group, a (poly)ether group and a urethane group wherein said fluorine compound is a compound in which the hydrogen atoms of a hydrocarbon compound are partially or completely substituted with fluorine atoms for use in producing a water-developable photopolymer plate for letterpress printing.

11. (Withdrawn) The developer according to claim 10, comprising:

(a) 1 to 50 parts by weight of one or more surfactants;

(b) 0.01 to 20 parts by weight of the silicone compound;

(c) 0.2 to 20 parts by weight of an alkyl glycol ether; and

(d) 0.1 to 10 parts by weight of an alkali builder.

12. (Withdrawn) The developer according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the developer comprises a silicone compound with one or more reactive functional groups selected from a hydroxy group, a carbinol group, an epoxy group, a (meth)acrylate group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylate group, an amino group and a (poly)ether group.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Withdrawn) A water-developable photopolymer plate for letterpress printing, comprising silicon on a surface thereof in a relative element concentration of 0.1 at % or more.

15. (Withdrawn) The water-developable photopolymer plate for letterpress printing according to claim 14, wherein a rate of a change of a diameter of an indicator of surface wettability between before and after a treatment by using a 20/80 (weight ratio) ethyl acetate/isopropyl alcohol mixed solvent is 25% or less.

16. (Withdrawn) The water developable photopolymer plate for letterpress printing according to claim 14, comprising silicon on the surface of the polymer in a relative element concentration of 0.1 at % or more after the treatment by using the 20/80 (weight ratio) ethyl acetate/isopropyl alcohol mixed solvent.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the irradiation step with actinic light is carried out during the post-exposure step.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the contact step and the irradiation step with actinic light are carried out simultaneously.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the contact step is carried out during the development step.